

called “superbugs” pose a threat because of overuse or misuse of antibiotics, but they also pose a threat because of what some call a “drug discovery void,” in which there has been insufficient research and development of new medicines to treat emerging mutating infections.

This situation recently has become much more serious. In the last 10 years, these drug-resistant diseases have been identified in patients in more than 200 hospitals in 42 states in this country. Over that period, their prevalence rate has increased from 1 percent of patients to 4 percent for those in short-term care, but for patients in long-term care facilities, the rate is as high as 18 percent. Half of all patients who contract these diseases do not survive.

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, one of the better known of these superbugs, now kills as many as 19,000 Americans each year and a similar number in Europe. That is higher than the annual rate of deaths from HIV and AIDS.

Last year, the World Health Organization identified strains of gonorrhea and tuberculosis that are currently completely untreatable, as well as a new wave of what might be called “super superbugs” with the mutation known as NDM1. These frightening new strains were first seen in India, but they have now spread worldwide. The spread of the H7N9 bird flu in China is causing considerable concern—with more than 100 confirmed cases and 22 deaths reported thus far. According to Agence France Presse, WHO said yesterday that there is still no evidence that H7N9 was spreading in a “sustained” way between people in China.

According to WHO, artemisinin, when used in combination with other drugs, is now considered the world's best treatment against malaria, but malarial parasites resistant to artemisinin have emerged in western Cambodia, along the border with Thailand.

In the developed world, we pride ourselves on having top-flight medical care widely available to patients. If we lose half of all patients who contract these drug-resistant diseases, what about patients in the developing world, where statistics are often scarce and effective medical care can be even scarcer? Using accepted protocols for treating these diseases, their rate of infection can be curbed.

In Israel, infection rates in all 27 of its hospitals fell by more than 70 percent in one year with a coordinated prevention program. By following accepted protocols for handling these diseases, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Florida Department of Health both have stopped outbreaks of these drug resistant diseases in recent years. But what about hospitals in developing countries?

For example, the brain drain has sent trained medical personnel in Africa in search of better working conditions and pay in the developed world. The lack of equipment and supplies that partly led to this brain drain would facilitate the rapid spread of drug resistant diseases in these countries. What would be simple interventions, including removing temporary medical devices such as catheters or ventilators from patients as soon as possible, is less likely under current conditions in developing world hospitals. Adding to this problem is the presence of expired and coun-

terfeit drugs. Patients whose lives could be saved may not be because of inadequate medical care. Unfortunately, because so many countries do not maintain and report statistics on medical issues, we have little idea how serious the situation is today in developing countries in Africa and elsewhere around the world.

In our interconnected world, that means that infected people in the developing and developed countries pose a mutual threat.

Last month, a Nepalese man was detained at the Texas border while trying to make an illegal crossing from Mexico. Officials found he was infected with an extensively drug resistant strain of tuberculosis and had carried this potentially deadly airborne disease through 13 countries over three months—from his home country of Nepal through South Asia, Brazil, Mexico and finally the United States. Who can say how many people he infected during this long journey?

Conversely, six years ago an American infected with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis traveled from this country to France, Greece and Italy before returning through the Czech Republic and Canada. Upon his return to the U.S., he became the first person subjected to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention isolation order since 1963.

Clearly, both developed and developing nations must work together to prevent and treat for these diseases and find a way to implement the new strategies in an era of constrained budgets and loosening control of authority in far too many countries. However, the Administration's proposed FY 2014 budget calls for a 19 percent cut in funding for tuberculosis programming at a time we need such capacity the most.

#### HONORING EILEEN AND MIKE LONG

#### HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2013*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eileen and Mike Long on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and to celebrate the lasting bond of love and happiness they have shared during their life together.

Mike, a born and raised New Yorker, has led a proud career of public service. A former Marine and New York City Councilman, he has unquestioningly served his country and the residents of Brooklyn. He continues his service today as the Chairman of the New York State Conservative Party.

Eileen served the people of Staten Island and Brooklyn honorably as an aide to both Representative Susan Molinari and Representative Vito Fossella.

Mike and Eileen were married in 1963 and are the proud and loving parents of nine children and seventeen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of New York, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Eileen and Mike Long on their fiftieth wedding anniversary and wishing them fifty more.

IN RECOGNITION OF THIS YEAR'S NRECA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

#### HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2013*

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, each year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizes one co-op whose dedication to increasing energy access in rural America has made a significant difference in their community. The 2013 winner of the NRCA's Community Service Award for Community Investment hails from a small town called Welcome, Minnesota.

Federated Rural Electric has created jobs and helped to improve the quality of life in rural Minnesota by improving access to electricity in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Federated Rural Electric helped AGCO Corporation, a worldwide manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, in their efforts to expand its Minnesota facility and add over 200 jobs. Last April, I had the opportunity to visit AGCO and see the great work they are doing to create jobs and grow their local economy in Jackson, Minnesota.

In addition to supporting AGCO, Federated Rural Electric has served over 9,000 residents of southern Minnesota. Federated has made invaluable contributions to rural Minnesota communities.

Today, I'm proud to honor Federated Rural Electric for its support of reliable energy and dedication to Minnesota's rural population.

#### LILIANA MERAZ

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Liliana Meraz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Liliana Meraz is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Liliana Meraz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Liliana Meraz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.